

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 5, please insert the following:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is the 35 USC 371 National Stage of International Application PCT/IB03/00366, filed on February 4, 2003, which designated the United States of America.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, between lines 11 and 13, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

--The subject of the present invention is therefore a spindle as described ~~in the appended Claim 1~~ below.--

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 33 with the following amended paragraph:

--A more detailed description will now be given of a preferred illustrative embodiment of a spindle according to the invention. This embodiment is selected from the many embodiments available to those skilled in the art in keeping with the below teachings ~~of the abovementioned Claim 1~~.--

Page 3, before line 1, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 3, between lines 9 and 11, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--